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Meeting Magnotta

German man tells court he didn't know accused killer was wanted by cops when they hung out in Berlin PAGE 8

Will pot pie put pumpkin in its place?

For a next-level Thanksgiving table, bring on the beef PAGE 19

YOU'D NEED A DRINK, TOO

BETTY HALBREICH'S BOOK, I'LL DRINK TO THAT, CHRONICLES 40 YEARS OF DRESSING THE LUNCHING LADIES OF BERGDORF GOODMAN PAGE 17

Alta. announces 'massive' $2-billion school package

Schools galore.
Opposition questions ethics of campaign-time announcement

Alberta Premier Jim Prentice announced a bigger batch of new schools than his predecessor Wednesday and accelerated the timeline for previously pledged buildings facing delays.

The $2-billion commitment will see 55 additional public and Catholic schools approved for a host of communities as well as 20 modernization and replacement projects. In Calgary, specifically, there will be four new public schools as well as build-outs of four already-approved starter schools due to open in early 2016.

The Catholic district, meanwhile, will see three new schools and one high-school modernization.

The new projects will add 35,000 student spaces and were billed by Prentice as Phase 3 of a 10-year plan that started in 2011 and includes 230 new buildings and modernizations.

"We can't merely content ourselves with catching up to current demand; we have to be going where that demand is going to be and we're going to have to be accountable to the commitments that are made," he told reporters.

The province classified the 50 new schools and 70 modernizations previously pledged by former premier Alison Redford as Phase 2 and offered new hope that all but five of those construction projects would be completed sometime in 2016 — ground has yet to be broken on a single project, however.

The 2011 school announcement saw 35 new schools pledged and all but four have since opened, Prentice noted.

But opposition Wildrose finance critic Rob Anderson noted the total price tag announced Wednesday was identical to that proposed by his party last week to build new schools over four years.

Anderson noted that both Prentice and Education Minister Gordon Dirks are currently in the midst of byelection campaigns, and said his party will ask the provincial ethics commissioner to investigate.

"Today, they stood in a government building staffed by public servants to make what was obviously a partisan campaign promise," Anderson said in a statement. "If they are going to be making partisan campaign promises, they should follow the law and the Wildrose lead and use their party resources to announce them."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

More coverage, page 4.

GOAL DENIED

Ryan Miller of the Vancouver Canucks, left, deflects a shot from the Flames' Joe Colborne during the game in Calgary on Wednesday. See story, page 23. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY

1
ACHIEVEMENT TESTING
Calgary's public and Catholic school boards are due to release and comment on their students' results on last year's provincial achievement tests Thursday.

2
LOCAL LOTTERY WINNER
Calgary's Valerie Cox is the latest big lotto winner, netting $1 million in the Sept. 27 Lotto 6-49 draw. Numerous Albertans have walked away with big jackpots this year.

3
ISIS CONFLICT
Amid fears the Syrian border town of Kobani could fall any day, U.S. and NATO officials are travelling to Turkey to press for more robust Turkish involvement in the coalition.

4
DOWNTON DECOR
Since Downton Abbey hit our screens we've been getting serious interiors envy. U.S. home store River of Goods plans to launch the first official Downton Abbey Lighting collection next January.

5
007'S SALAD DAYS
The early career of super-spy James Bond will be explored in a series of comic books set for 2015. The announcement comes after Dynamite Entertainment reached an agreement with Ian Fleming's estate.

Education. Putting mental health in spotlight

Public summits, private tests and some furry friends to pet are among the latest offerings for students looking to shed the struggle — and stigma — that comes with mental-health issues.

At the University of Calgary, the first student-run mental-health summit, dubbed Meet Your Monkey, is being arranged for later this month. The event is billed as being unlike any held previously on a post-secondary campus.

"It will be more personal testimonials from people," said Jonah Ardiel with the campus Students' Union. "You'll get more practical information because it's affecting students and the ideas that will come from the summit (will) come from students."

At Mount Royal University, meanwhile, officials are partnering with the Calgary Counselling Centre to offer an anonymous test developed at Harvard Medical School that identifies depressive symptoms and offers avenues for further evaluation. The offering coincides with Thursday's National Depression Screening Day. **JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO**

Details

- The Meet Your Monkey student mental-health summit at the University of Calgary is free for students to attend and runs both from 4-8 p.m. Oct. 17 and agin from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. the following day in the MacEwan Student Centre.
- Students, faculty and staff with Mount Royal University can head to calgarycounselling.com to take the depression screening test.

Residential parking tickets surge by 10%

Expanded photo enforcement mulled.
City report recommends accelerating planned review of policies

Thousands more handwritten tickets have been handed out this year than last for parking violations in residential areas, according to new data, and the Calgary Parking Authority is considering moving to automated enforcement city-wide.

A total of 23,664 tickets were issued in residential parking permit (RPP) zones between January and September, a 10 per cent increase over the same period in 2013.

All of those tickets are issued by hand, unlike the photo enforcement that takes place downtown, said parking authority spokesperson Shelly Trigg. Currently, residents living in the majority of the city's 72 RPP zones are entitled to two free parking permits per household, plus up to two more visitor permits.

Calgary should move away from handwritten parking tickets and use more photo enforcement outside the downtown area, according to Coun. Shane Keating. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO FILE

Permits

31,998

The number of paper residential parking permits issued in Calgary in 2013

The paper permits must be displayed in a parked vehicle, but Trigg said the authority has long-term plans to move to a paper-free, photo-based enforcement system in residential areas, too.

A new report, however, recommends accelerating a comprehensive review of city parking policies, including residential parking.

The report is due up at the city's transportation committee Friday, and the committee chair thinks it makes sense to expand the parking authority's camera cars beyond Calgary's core area.

"We have the technology now," Coun. Shane Keating said. "So why not use it across the board? It just speeds everything up and the cost is lower."

Residents could permanently register the licence plates of their vehicles and guests could temporarily register their plate numbers by phone or text message when visiting friends in an RPP zone, Keating suggested.

It currently costs about $1.1 million a year to run the RPP system. "That would account for the costs of enforcement, signage, printing, postage — all of that stuff,' Trigg said. **ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO**

Transformation on time for East Village

An artist rendering of the "Seasonal Breach" in St. Patrick's Island Park. COURTESY CMLC

Transforming Calgary's least-visited park and a 102-year-old building takes time, but restorations on St. Patrick's Island Park and the Simmons Building are right on schedule.

Simmons building restorations are complete, and the new tenants, Phil & Sebastian Coffee Roasters, Sidewalk Citizen Bakery and charbar, will begin moving in on Oct. 13.

St. Patrick's Island Park has also made some major headway with restorations. The 31 acres of green space have seen a lot of changes since construction began last year.

Susan Veres, vice-president of marketing and communications with the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, the company overseeing the restorations, said some of the park's attractions are already complete, while others are waiting on final touch-ups.

"The washrooms are done, the seasonal breach for the most part is done, the tip is done," said Veres. "We still have another year to go, and we need all that time to finish off these features."

Both spaces are set to open to the public in June 2015. **YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO**

Cheers for new schools, but questions remain

'More specifics.' City sees thousands of new students annually

Christmas came months early for families in school-strapped areas, but school board officials said they needed more detail on a slate of new facilities before joining in the festive cheer.

Parents in the community of West Springs were quick to flock online to celebrate word that the province would commit funding to eventually turn their planned starter school, expected to be ready in early 2016, into a full-fledged middle school to serve neighbourhood kids as well as those from nearby Cougar Ridge.

John Pantazopoulos has two youngsters that could attend the long-awaited facility.

"It gets the ball rolling — to me, it makes it real," said the overjoyed father, before giving a nod to Alberta Premier Jim Prentice, who met with area parents twice during the recent Tory leadership campaign.

"His first big announcement was education, so I say hats off to you — he listened to parents," Pantazopoulos said.

But school board officials, who had little prior indication of Wednesday's announcement, were puzzled by the amount of funding for specific projects and their timelines.

"We're really encouraged by the news today, but we're looking for more specifics ourselves.... We have an acute infrastructure need and we will be pressing that need on behalf of our students," said Mary Martin, trustee chair of the Calgary Catholic School District.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Newly announced projects

Calgary Board of Education:

- Aspen Woods: elementary; Cranston: middle; Martindale: elementary; Saddle Ridge: elementary; Silverado: elementary; Skyview Ranch: elementary/middle; Southeast: high School (Seton area); Springbank Hill/Discovery Ridge: elementary/middle; West Springs/Cougar Ridge: middle; Lord Beaverbrook: modernization; James Fowler: modernization; Andrew Davison: modernization (operated by Foundations for the Future Charter Academy)

Calgary Catholic School District:

- Mahogany: elementary; Silverado: elementary/middle; Sherwood: elementary/middle; St. Francis: modernization

Calgary area:

- Airdrie — Herons Crossing: elementary/middle school addition; Airdrie — West side (Windsong): elementary/middle; Cochrane — Fireside: elementary/middle; Okotoks — Ecole Beausoleil: new elementary/middle; Okotoks — location unknown: elementary/middle; Strathmore — location unknown: elementary/middle

Kids in the community of West Springs were all cheers Wednesday after a new middle school was approved to be built in their area. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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'Exciting' light shows. New, colourful shine put on the Calgary Tower

There was something different about the Calgary Tower Wednesday morning, but unless you got up before the crack of dawn you might have missed it.

In the first Calgary Tower update since 2005, a flashy set of external LED lights was installed to replace the old lighting system.

The lighting is meant to improve the city skyline while reducing carbon emissions.

"It provides a number of added features including exciting programmable light shows," said Scott Hutcheson, chairman and CEO of Aspen Properties.

The roof has 12 lights on the crown, 24 on the floor and each can be programmed to produce more than 16.5 million colours and lighting effects.

"It was a significant investment. Interestingly it was about half the cost we quoted it in 2007," said Greg Guatto, president and COO of Aspen Properties.

There will be a daily light show as well as a myriad of calendar events.

Details will be posted on the Calgary Tower web page.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

The Calgary Tower, as seen from below. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Kita

Tiger with 'incredible legacy' dies at Calgary Zoo

The Calgary Zoo has announced that its 19-year-old tiger Kita has died.

In recent years, the Amur tiger matriarch had begun to show signs of old age, including arthritis, zoo officials stated.

The zoo said the median life expectancy for an Amur tiger is 14 years.

"Kita lived a full and long life and leaves behind an incredible legacy," read a blog post.

Kita was transferred to the city zoo at age three from Toronto.

In 2000, Kita birthed five healthy cubs — Marilei, Tsamara, Fedor Eh and Katja. She also had a sixth cub in 2007.

"While we will miss Kita dearly, we celebrate the long and successful life she led, and the incredible contribution she gave to her species and those that loved her," wrote zoo officials.

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U of C research. $1M gift to be used for studying stem-cell burn treatment

One million dollars in new funding announced Wednesday will go a long way toward advancing techniques for treating burn victims, according to a stem cell biologist at the University of Calgary.

"This is a huge amount of funding into our program," Dr. Jeff Biernaskie said Wednesday of a $1-million gift from the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society. "This is really going to allow us to do some innovative things."

The money will create a new research chair in skin regeneration and wound healing within the university's faculty of veterinary medicine.

Biernaskie, who will serve as the inaugural chair, said his research will focus on better understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of animals that can quickly heal wounds, and applying that knowledge to advance treatments for human burn victims.

Skin grafts are good to close burn wounds but don't restore a critical bottom layer of a person's skin, Biernaskie noted.

Quoted

"Our goal is really to use a stem-cell approach where we can regenerate that underlayer of skin."

Dr. Jeff Biernaskie

Don Adamson, who received skin grafts after suffering severe burns to half his body in a car fire 10 years ago, said the potential for new treatment is "very exciting."

Adamson's grafts went well but he said many burn patients' bodies reject the grafts, and even when they're accepted the scars appear rough and discoloured and can restrict range of motion.

He said stem-cell treatments could "help with self-image for burn survivors and give them a better outcome and, at the same time, a better quality of life.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

The Flames' young guns a big draw for loyal fans

Fans are excited to watch the Flames' young talent develop this season. From left: Kyle Roesler, Jessica Boone, Carolyn Seitz and Jeannette Wilson.

YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

New season, new faces. 'There's room to grow, but I think there's a really good chance of making it to the playoffs this year,' says a fan

YASMIN JASWAL
calgary@metronews.ca

The Calgary Flames' new season comes with new faces, and the young talent has fans fired up for the season.

Wednesday's home opener against the Vancouver Canucks brought out fans of all ages, and most were ready for the season to finally begin. The biggest draw for this season?

The latest additions to the lineup.

"I'm excited to see the young players develop," said fan Jeff Parker, whose favourite young gun is Sean Monahan.

He's not the only one. A lot of fans said they were looking forward to watching the younger players and how they would gel with the veterans on the team. However, the team's budding talent isn't the only reason fans are looking forward to the 2014-15 season.

Caroline Seitz, a longtime Flames fan, said she's ready for the team to make a run for the playoffs, and for good hockey. "If it's like last year, I'll be happy."

Last season ended without a cup run, but some fans have hope for this year's roster.

"You always have a chance," said Jessica Boone. "No one thought they'd make it in 2004. Look how far they got."

Jeannette Wilson agrees.

"There's room to grow, but I think there's a really good chance of making it to the playoffs this year."

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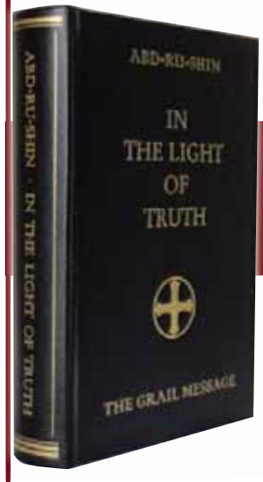

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Community gardens take root in city

Thirteen-fold increase since 2008. Sharing of food happy result of crop overabundance

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

There's a growing trend in Calgary's communities and that is, in part, thanks to community gardens.

This year's Vital Signs report revealed that 53 per cent of Calgarians grow their own food, whether it's a few herbs or a full climate-friendly harvest. That's up from 20 per cent in 2010.

Renée MacKillop, co-chair of Calgary EATS!, says there's a lot at play in why more gardens are being planted and maintained in the city. Part of it's due to a trend in buying and eating local.

In 2008 there were only 11 gardens, a number which has skyrocketed to a whopping 145 at last count — a thirteen-fold increase.

Gael Blackhall from the Community Garden Resource Network helps communities get going with private and public community plots. The group hosts workshops and is there every step of the way for new and old green thumbs.

"It's social gardening," says Blackhall. "If you garden well and take care of your soil, there's always more than you can use, so food sharing becomes a natural action."

Some choose to share food in the community, and some grow food to give away. She said some groups with gardens have harvested enough swiss chard and spinach this year to feed hundreds.

Grande gesture. Calgary Starbucks serves up cup fiancée won't soon forget

Dania Melhem ordered her piping-hot cuppa joe expecting to see her name scribbled on the side of the cup. But when she turned it around she was surprised by the curly writing, asking: "Dania, Will you marry me?"

Ahmed Rammay, her partner of about a year, dropped down to one knee before she had the chance to process.

"I was really, really surprised," said Melhem. "All of a sudden he's down on one knee, there's all kinds of people taking pictures. I don't really remember much of what he said, it was just really overwhelming."

She said yes.

The couple met for their first date in the 17th Avenue Starbucks location and bonded over pumpkin-spice lattes.

"I've had a lot of cousins texting and messaging," said Rammay. "They're like, 'We hope there's a Starbucks card at the wedding.'" **HELEN PIKE/METRO**

Ahmed Rammay kneels down in a Calgary Starbucks to propose to his now fiancée, Dania Melhem. CONTRIBUTED

Trumped-up charges?

Man accused of killing seniors set for release

A man once charged in the slaying of two Alberta seniors has been found not guilty of nine unrelated drug and weapons charges.

Travis Vader did plead guilty to a charge of failing to comply with a court order in 2010 and was sentenced to one day of time already served.

His defence lawyer said Vader, who has been in jail since shortly after the couple disappeared, was finally set to be released from custody.

Vader had faced first-degree murder charges in the deaths of Lyle McCann and his wife Marie, but the charges were stayed earlier this year.

The couple, both in their 70s, were last seen alive more than four years ago when they fuelled up their motorhome in their hometown of St. Albert, north of Edmonton.

Their bodies have never been found.

Travis Vader
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Vader has filed lawsuits against prosecutors and the RCMP claiming malicious prosecution. He alleges he was kept in custody on trumped-up charges.

It was Vader's second trial on the drug and weapons offences. He was convicted in 2013, but before he was sentenced it was discovered that some evidence had not been properly disclosed to the defence. The judge in that case cited the RCMP as "negligent" and ordered a new trial. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

THE WAIT IS **OVER**

Adult Onset

by Ann-Marie MacDonald

After more than 10 years, best-selling Canadian author Ann-Marie MacDonald makes her triumphant return to fiction with *Adult Onset*. The novel centers around Mary Rose MacKinnon and her family. As stress mounts in her life Mary Rose begins to rethink her childhood memories leading her to question how her past is impacting both her life and her children's. A piercing look at motherhood, memory, family and how we choose to live.

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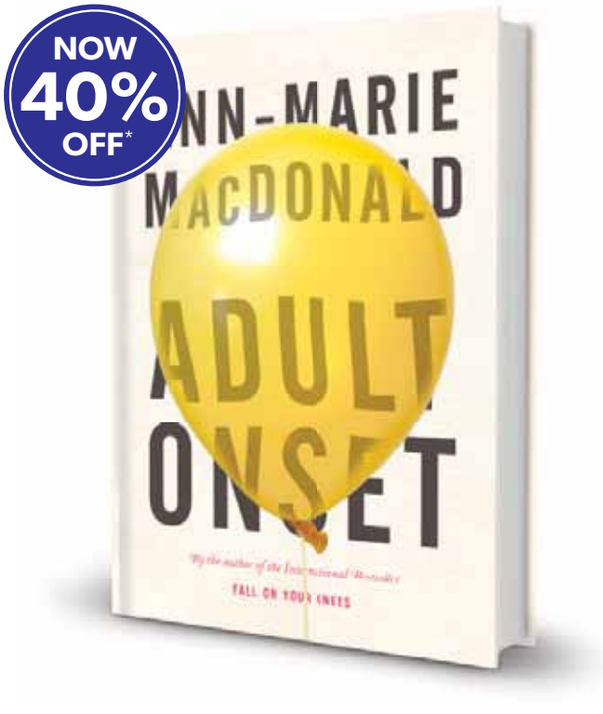

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Man tells jury about days spent with Magnotta before his arrest

Jun Lin murder case. Court hears that Frank Rubert allowed accused into his Berlin home, unaware man was wanted by police

Witness Frank Rubert, left, from Berlin, leaves the courtroom with police investigators after testifying at the murder trial for Luka Rocco Magnotta Wednesday in Montreal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The man who housed Luka Rocco Magnotta in Berlin says the accused murderer had a few thousand euro, no luggage and was reportedly looking for a fresh start after breaking up with a lover.

Frank Rubert told Magnotta's murder trial on Wednesday the entire encounter with Magnotta — online and in person — spanned several days in May and June 2012.

He met Magnotta on a chat website called GayRomeo while looking for a roommate.

Testifying through an interpreter, Rubert said they spent much of their time together shopping, eating and drinking, but did not have sex because Magnotta wasn't his type.

Rubert said he didn't want to bring Magnotta home when he first saw him at the bus station. The native of Scarborough, Ont., looked greasy and unkempt, but Rubert decided to bring him home because he didn't want to leave him alone in Berlin with nowhere to go.

Magnotta, 32, has pleaded not guilty to five charges in the murder and dismemberment of Chinese student Jun Lin. He has admitted to the acts he's accused of, but is arguing he is not criminally responsible by way of mental disorder.

In the days after the killing, he flew to France before heading to the German capital and hooking up with Rubert.

Rubert told the jury they socialized for four days without anything untoward happening. On the day of Magnotta's arrest, the pair had parted ways for a few hours. During that time, Rubert picked up a newspaper and saw a chilling image inside: a photo of Magnotta with a story describing an international manhunt for his arrest on suspicion of murder.

While Rubert contacted police and waited at a nearby station, an Internet café employee had flagged down police after seeing Magnotta in the café.

"On that day I reflected, and thought how stupid was I to let just anybody come into my apartment without knowing what kind of a person this was," Rubert said, adding the German police wished him a happy birthday after the arrest.

"I replied it's not my birthday and the police said yes, it is, because you could have been the next."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lac-Mégantic. Coroner issues report, says deaths could have been avoided

A Quebec coroner says the deaths of 47 people in the explosion of an oil tanker train in Lac-Mégantic, Que., in July 2013 could have been avoided.

Dr. Martin Clavet issued a report Wednesday for each of the 47 victims. He notes he can't comment about civil or criminal responsibility because of pending criminal charges.

Clavet is urging Ottawa to review its regulations to determine the number of brakes that need to be enabled on trains. He is also recommending that the federal government ensures trains carrying dangerous materials on a main track have proper supervision.

A federal measure to that effect expired in 2013 and Clavet is recommending it be re-introduced until Canadian rail companies implement more security measures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Euthanasia

Poll: Canadians strongly support assisted dying

An overwhelming majority of Canadians surveyed in an online poll support assisted dying for those suffering from a terminal illness that results in "unbearable suffering," a pro-euthanasia group said Wednesday, ahead of a Supreme Court of Canada hearing on the issue.

The online survey — commissioned by the group Dying With Dignity Canada and conducted by Ipsos Reid — found that more than 90 per cent of respondents agree with assisted dying.

"Support in our poll was across every age group, every income bracket, all education levels, both genders and community regardless of size," said Wanda Morris, CEO of Dying With Dignity Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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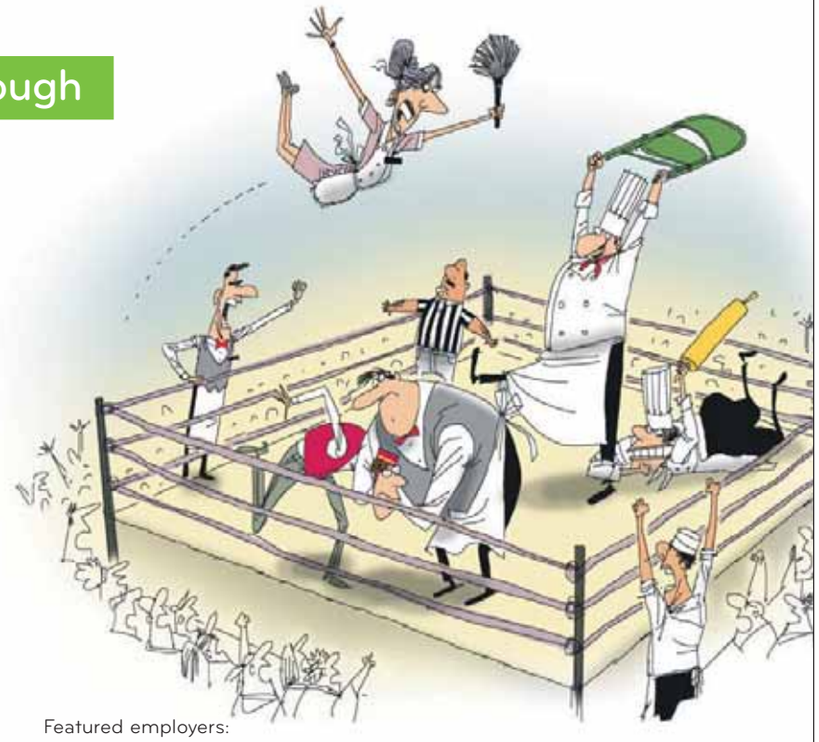

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"Number one job site" based on six-month average online job postings for period ending October 7, 2014. Comparison between Workopolis and all other major paid online job boards. Does not include online classified sites or job posting aggregator sites. Statistics provided by WANTED Technologies. © 2014 Workopolis.

Ebola patient wanted to see son graduate

'Dealing with the sorrow.' Visit to America represented decades of effort

Thomas Eric Duncan, the first Ebola patient diagnosed in the United States, grew up next to a leper colony in Liberia and was forced to flee from years of war before returning to his country, years later, to find it ravaged by the disease that ultimately took his life as well.

Duncan, 42, arrived in Dallas, Texas, in late September, realizing a long-held ambition to join relatives. He came to attend the high-school graduation of his son, who was brought to the U.S. as a toddler when the boy's mother successfully applied for resettlement.

"His son had told his mother, 'I want to see my dad. Can we help my dad to come?' And they fixed his papers to come to this country," said Duncan's brother Wilfred Smallwood.

Thomas Eric Duncan
WILMOT CHAYEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The trip was the culmination of decades of effort, friends and family members said. But when Duncan arrived in Dallas, though he showed no symptoms, he had already been exposed to Ebola.

Duncan's half-sister, Mai Wureh, had arrived with her husband in the U.S. in 1989, shortly before the warlord Charles Taylor's invasion, and helped her family apply for resettlement there, but the application was denied.

Duncan, Smallwood and about 20 other family members fled in the opposite direction from Taylor, to a refugee camp outside the Ivorian border city of Danane. It was there that Duncan met Louise Troh.

When Troh's resettlement application was approved, she took the couple's three-year-old son, Karsiah, and moved first to Boston and later to Dallas. This year, Duncan was summoned to the U.S. Duncan arrived at Troh's apartment in Dallas on Sept. 20.

Troh said in a statement Wednesday that she is "dealing with the sorrow and anger" that Karsiah Duncan was unable to visit Duncan at the hospital and so never saw his father again. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death penalty. Afghan authorities hang 5 men convicted of gang rape

Afghan authorities executed five men who were convicted of armed robbery and gang rape, the Kabul police chief said, following a case that galvanized the nation in recent weeks.

Gen. Mohammad Zahir Zahir says the men were hanged on Wednesday in the Puli Charkhi prison in the Afghan capital. Then-President Hamid Karzai had approved and signed the execution order last month on his last day in office, a rare such authorization in his more than decade-long tenure.

In August, eight men, some dressed in police uniforms, stopped an Afghan family's car outside Kabul and sexually assaulted four of the women in the family, including one who was pregnant. They were dragged out of the vehicle into an area where their male family members could hear the women screaming. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan man sentenced to death is seen through a vehicle's rear window before the execution of six criminals at a jail in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Wednesday. MASSOUD HOSSAINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Online meddlers can't run and can't hide from WikiWash

In March 2014, Metro's digital team headed to Toronto's inaugural edition of Techraking, a data journalism crash course sponsored by Google, the Center for Investigative Reporting and The Working Group. The prize at the end was a sizeable chunk of TWG's time to develop a data journalism tool pitched by an attending team. Metro's team won over the judges, and WikiWash is the result.

Metro digital reporter Luke Simcoe demonstrates the WikiWash program in Toronto Wednesday. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO IN TORONTO

What is WikiWash?

- WIkiWash is a search engine that reveals the edit history of a Wikipedia entry. To learn which users have been editing a page, simply paste the link or type the title into WikiWash's search field.
- WikiWash will then provide you with a chronological list of edits made to that page, including the handle or IP address of the person behind it. Clicking on each edit's summary will highlight the specific changes that were made, be it simply correcting a typo, or something a little shadier.
- So what to do with all these edit histories? Well, that's up to you.

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

According to itself, Wikipedia is the fifth-most popular website on Earth.

It boasts a staggering 21 billion monthly page views and the English edition alone contains 4.6 million articles — 100 times that of Encyclopedia Britannica.

Since its inception in 2001, Wikipedia has become the Internet era's de facto archive. However, with that status comes great responsibility, for a single malicious or incorrect edit can ripple outwards, carried into the broader discourse by the 500 million people who visit the site each month.

One of the earliest hoaxes on Wikipedia occurred in 2005. An article on U.S. journalist John Seigenthaler falsely claimed he was a suspect in the Kennedy assassination. The entry remained online for six months before being discovered, and the ensuing outcry led the Wikimedia Foundation to ban unregistered users from creating pages.

Two years later, a 24-year-old Caltech student named Virgil Griffith created WikiScanner, an online tool that linked changes made by anonymous Wikipedia editors to the organizations from which the changes were made. Griffith's tool revealed edits made from IP addresses connected to numerous governments, businesses and agencies, including the CIA, the Vatican and the Canadian government.

Griffith said he developed WikiScanner "to create minor public relations disasters for companies and organizations I dislike (and) to see what 'interesting organizations' (which I am neutral towards) are up to."

Most of the edits discovered by WikiScanner were harmless, but it was a wake-up call. The public learned governments and corporations had Wikipedia on their radar and weren't above meddling with it to preserve their image.

There are currently 287 language editions of Wikipedia, meaning spin and vandalism on the site is truly a global issue. (Check out the map on the next page to see some editing controversies from around the world.)

As Wikipedia's audience continues to grow, so too does the capacity for political and corporate spin on the site. Earlier this year, a WikiMedia employee was fired after being caught editing entries on behalf of paying clients. In July, media outlets reported computers linked to the Kremlin were editing the Wikipedia article on Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 to downplay Russia's possible role in the crash.

"It's not really surprising," said Wikimedia spokesperson Katherine Maher.

"A place that's relied on by so many is also a place where you'll find those with an interest, an agenda or a point of view that's not neutral."

With that in mind, Metro News has created WikiWash. Designed in the spirit of WikiScanner, the tool takes things a step further by allowing users to track edits to Wikipedia in real time. And unlike other tools, WikiWash displays edits on the Wikipedia page itself, putting any changes in context.

While tools like WikiWash have historically revealed Wikipedia's vulnerabilities, Maher believes they're a valuable part of the project.

"We're always excited when we see them," she said. "They're really an extension of the intent of Wikipedia. If you start giving people open tools to create and share knowledge and participate in democracy, then the sky's the limit on what they'll actually do with them."

Ed Summers, creator of the @CongressEdits Twitter account, agrees. The automated account tweets edits made by IP addresses assigned to the U.S. Congress. The project has spawned clones across the world, including Canada.

"I created @congressedits because I hoped it could engender more, better ideas and tools like it. More thought experiments. More care for our communities and peoples," Summers wrote in a recent blog post.

It's a lofty goal, and one that prompted Metro to create WikiWash. Whether it's uncovering a political conspiracy, or just learning more about what makes Wikipedia tick, we're excited to see how readers make use of WikiWash.

Check it out and let us know what you find at wikiwash@metronews.ca.

Online coverage

Follow @MetroNewsCanada on Twitter to find out when WikiWash will be available.

Background

The seeds of an idea

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

It all started because we thought it would be fun to map the sort of chicanery Toronto's absurdly partisan politics inspired on Wikipedia.

Shortly after Metro's digital team arrived at Techraking, we were assigned a fairly simple task: Come up with a data journalism pitch to throw your freshly tuned techniques at.

Our kernel was telling the story of Toronto's municipal election through Wikipedia edits. What invented indiscretions would worm their way into our notorious incumbent's entry? If somebody was spotted sowing confusion on a candidate's page, what other entries had drawn their attention?

That kernel went on to be heated by several rounds of prodding and encouragement from our Center for Investigative Reporting and The Working Group hosts.

They challenged us to expand our idea and cast our eye toward Wikipedia itself. The site's open nature is its greatest strength and its greatest weakness.

A way to easily sort what entries are being targeted by ill-intentioned edits, where the edits are being made from and even how they're being corrected could go a long way to taming the more damaging aspects of Wikipedia's crowdsourcing model.

So it was time to think big. How much data could realistically be scraped from Wikipedia? Would we be able to search a constellation of pages to dig up potential patterns? What's the best way to display it?

Eventually, chats with our hosts grew shorter and the question primarily became, "Wait, this doesn't already exist?"

It didn't. Now it does. WikiWash still has a distance to go before it becomes what we think it can be, but we couldn't be happier to share it with you while we watch it grow.

A brief history of Wikipedia editing gone awry

B.C. parliament buildings

Ahead of the 2013 B.C. provincial election, an edit war erupted on the Wikipedia entries for Liberal Premier Christy Clark and NDP Leader Adrian Dix. Partisan supporters on both sides were accused of grooming the leaders' pages, removing any mention of past scandals.

U.S. House of Representatives

In 2005, the IP address assigned to the U.S. House of Representatives was blocked from editing Wikipedia due to "a deliberate attempt to compromise the integrity of the encyclopedia."

U.K. parliament

In March 2012, it was discovered that U.K. MPs or their staff had made almost 10,000 edits to the encyclopedia. Many of the changes dealt with removing unflattering details from Wikipedia during the 2009 expenses scandal.

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17

In July 2014, the Daily Telegraph reported that IP addresses belonging to the Russian government had edited articles related to Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 to remove claims that it had helped provide the missile system used to shoot down the aircraft.

California Institute of Technology

In 2007, Caltech student Virgil Griffith created WikiScanner, a tool that cross-referenced edits to Wikipedia and the organizations from which the changes were made. Griffith's tool revealed potentially spurious editing conducted by addresses linked to numerous governments, businesses or agencies, ranging from the CIA to the Vatican.

Gulf of Mexico

In March 2013, it was revealed that an employee of British Petroleum (BP) was editing the company's Wikipedia page following the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Croatia

In September 2013, newspapers reported that the Croatian-language edition of Wikipedia had been hijacked by a group intent on promoting anti-gay sentiment. The malicious edits prompted the country's minister of education to issue a warning to students not to trust the content of the site.

Goa, India

In January 2013, an article on the "Bicholim conflict" — an alleged war in the Indian Goa — was revealed to be a complete fabrication. Prior to the revelation, the article had been listed in good standing for more than five years.

MAP: ISTOCK PHOTO

OSC. Panel doesn't want Conrad Black rehashing old news during testimony

Conrad Black will be allowed the right to speak in his own defence later this week before Canada's largest provincial securities commission, although it doesn't want to revisit issues that have already been through the U.S. legal system.

The Ontario Securities Commission panel also agreed Wednesday to also allow testimony from two of the witnesses proposed by the former media mogul, including his former secretary.

Black's testimony is scheduled to begin Friday. The head of the OSC panel, Christopher Portner, said he wants to ensure the Black hearing does not "recharacterize the evidence of the U.S. proceedings." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Called 'cramming'

AT&T to pay $105M for billing people for bogus charges

Telecom giant AT&T will pay a hefty $105-million US settlement after the U.S. government accused the company of unlawfully billing wireless customers for tens of millions of dollars in bogus charges — a practice known as cramming.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged false claim

Feds seek return of $240,000 in oil spill claim money

The U.S. government is seeking the return of nearly $240,000 after an Alabama man allegedly falsely claimed to have made the bulk of his 2009 income for himself and his business from shrimping — revenue that was shut off by the 2010 Gulf oil spill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 90.06¢ (+0.54¢)

TSX 14,666.47 (+90.02)

OIL $87.31 US (-$1.54)

GOLD $1,206.00 US (-$6.40)

Natural gas: $3.86 US (-$0.08)
Dow Jones: 16,994.22 (+274.83)

Love animals? There's a crowdfunding site for you

LoveAnimals.org. If you have a soft spot for cute, cuddly creatures, you can donate via the site to help pets and wildlife

A large number of small online donations can turn pet projects into big lifesavers for animals.

LoveAnimals.org, a year-old crowdfunding site, is believed to be the first devoted to aiding just pets and wildlife. It has tapped into the power of online contributions, where people can give what they can, whether $5 or $500 US, to help a more costly project come to fruition. Through Love Animals, donors can help non-profit sanctuaries, pet rescues, animal hospitals, zoos and aquariums provide care and extra amenities for dogs, elephants, otters, horses and everything in between.

Animal efforts appear on other sites using the popular crowdfunding technique, such as Indiegogo, Kickstarter and Gofundme, but they are mixed with non-animal causes and for-profit companies. In July, the ResQwalk mobile app launched through Indiegogo, allowing people to raise money for animal rescues and shelters in the U.S. and Canada every time they go walking.

LOVE ANIMALS.org
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Pets
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Farm
Aquatic
Alison Eastwood and Love Animals team up to give medical research chimps the retirement they deserve
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» Find Wild Animal Projects
» Find Farm Animal Projects
» Find Aquatic Animal Projects
» Find a Project by Location
Featured Projects

metro AR This screengrab shows the homepage of LoveAnimals.org, a new crowdfunding site devoted to helping pets and wildlife. If you scan this image with your Metro News App, you'll be able to see some of the animals this site is helping, including two really adorable otters. SCREENGRAB

"It's easier to get many people to give small sums of money than to get just a few people to give you large amounts of money," said Sarah Timms, a Colorado attorney who founded LoveAnimals.org.

The site gave a new chance at life to a kitten named Roger, who was thrown from a moving car in Colorado in early September and required a leg amputation.

Longmont Humane Society in Colorado, which took in the one-pound kitten, doubled its goal of $650 in less than 24 hours of online fundraising. Twenty people donated between $5 and $375 through Love Animals to help pay for medical bills and rehab for Roger.

Timms founded the free site after reading a study from Massolution, a crowdfunding research company, which said crowdfunding raises billions of dollars globally every year.

"We will make sure animals get a piece of that pie," Timms said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SO HIP IT HURTS: A SUPERFAN'S TIMELINE

HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Maybe the clearest sign I'm getting older is that my favourite band is getting older, too. I am *38 Years Old*, after all.

The Tragically Hip's library isn't the Library of Alexandria or anything, but they've been around long enough that they're about to re-release a 22-year-old album. I find this depressing, fully and completely.

Even the way I discovered The Hip is old school. I was at my old school listening to a mixtape on a Walkman, when I heard a song with a bass groove so deep I dove right in. It was At the Hundredth Meridian, where my great fandom begins.

Since then, I've seen the Hip in Holland and Las Vegas and, God help me, Moncton. I've talked to four of them, including a conversation with bassist Gord Sinclair where he told me they're still together because 'We're men, not boys.'

I'd best not squeal, then, I thought, as I nodded solemnly.

I've tried not to be That Fan, but it's hard. I went to a movie theatre to see a one-off closed-circuit thing the band was doing, and I was stopped by a cameraman on the way in to ask my thoughts for the nightly news.

What I wanted to say: "The Hip were the first rock band to use Canadian iconography in their songs, which eventually led to the group becoming iconic themselves." What I actually said: "They're, like, icons, man. Awesome."

I didn't thrust a beer in the air and yell "WHOO!" though, so, you know, small victories.

My extreme fandom's never stopped. I know more about the Hip than any normal person should. Here's a timeline of their career, completely off the top of my head:

- **Sept. 15, 1981:** The band gets together in high school, spurred on by the typical Canadian dream of forming a group that is 40 per cent Gords.
- **Feb. 28, 1983:** The band chooses the name The Tragically Hip after watching a 1980s Saturday Night Live sketch of the same name, beating out close contenders "Land Shark" and "Roseanne Rosannadanna."
- **July 2, 1986:** Lead singer Gord Downie has a day that he later says inspired much of his songwriting, when some Bobcaygeon thugs lock him in the trunk of a car.
- **Aug. 9, 1987:** The band releases its second single, kicking off the well-loved fan ritual of saying, "They're good, but not as good as they used to be."
- **March 17, 1994:** The band is nearly torn apart by drummer Johnny Faye's double-double addiction.
- **Aug. 29, 2005:** Years of alleged fear mongering are vindicated when New Orleans begins sinking. FEMA offers the band a direct apology.

That timeline isn't strictly true, if you want to be a slave to the dictionary definition. But it does highlight my obsessive, silly fandom, and why I still like the band so much after so many years: They make me feel young. Or as renowned rock critic Lester Bangs once put it, "Icons, man. Awesome."

Metro Bitstrips caption contest

metro AR

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MetroTube

metro AR

Get your kangaroo kicks

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

SCREENGRAB

So I'm a little torn about the Nutcracker soundtrack playing over this kangaroo fight. At first, I was indignant. Sure, the comedic value is plain. But it's also a disservice to anybody who hasn't heard what must be the magnificent sounds produced by a kangaroo boxing match. But by the time it was all over, I realized I'd hardly blinked and my heart was soaring. So well played, Rodney Langham.(Rodney Langham/YouTube)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A B.C. Pastafarian lost his driver's licence over refusing to ditch the colander in his ID photo, which he claims is his religious right to wear. Was the decision just?

@lustforlaughs: Pastafarianism can't be a religion because there is legitimate verifiable proof that pasta exists.

@nasty45: as long as he can wear the strainer to the Legion Im cool.

@edmontongue: jah win some jah lose some

Join the conversation @metropicks.

metro AR

SEE THE NEWS COME ALIVE

In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 12 in Business, page 15 in Scene and page 24 in Sports.

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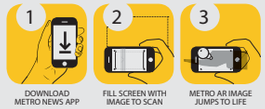
3. Voilà! You should see the AR in action.



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Mix and mingle with writers, or watch their high-wire acts

Wordfest. Readers and writers come together for 19th annual festival of words at venues in Calgary and Banff

LUCY HAINES
calgary@metronews.ca

Beatbox poet C.R. Avery will perform a "poetry reading on drugs" at Wordfest to promote his latest book, Some Birds Walk for the Hell Of It. CONTRIBUTED

If your idea of a writer's festival is a stuffy literary event with an author standing at a podium reading from their latest book, Wordfest wants to change your perceptions.

This year's Wordfest, more than ever, will be a mingling of reader and writer, with double the number of workshops, afternoon book club events, reader's choice options and an alt-lit series to bring patrons and writers together.

This year's Wordfest is moving to Theatre Junction Grand's historical space as the festival hub, and planning a splashy kickoff Oct. 14 with Kids in the Hall alum Bruce McCulloch.

But it's the mix of seasoned authors with emerging artists and established newcomers that remains the most exciting element of the event.

Rudy Wiebe, known as the foremost author of his generation in Alberta, comes to Wordfest not just to celebrate his 80th birthday (yes, there will be cake), but to read from, and talk about, a very personal novel. Come Back mirrors Wiebe's own experience with losing a child to suicide.

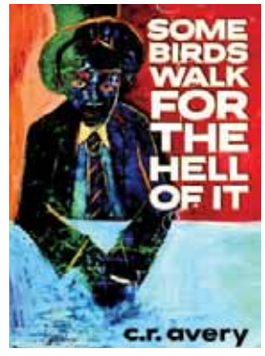
"This was a difficult book to write, but it's a story I felt I should tell at some point," said Wiebe from his home in Edmonton. "The novel deals with the father's attempt to come to grips with the guilt over his son's death and the question of 'How could this happen? What could I have done?'"

Powerful on a whole different level is the appearance by beatbox poet C.R. Avery Oct. 13-15 to promote his latest book, Some Birds Walk for the Hell Of It.

Calling it a "poetry reading on drugs," Avery said his event is a cabaret of poetry, dance and burlesque.

Appearing as a rapping priest and banjo-player from Red Deer (among other characters), Avery said he's honoured Wordfest picked his work as part of its eclectic lineup for the festival's Page Break series, which is described as the "literary equivalent to high-wire acts."

"It's poetry in motion," says Avery. "I've turned my book into a theatre piece that I hope will inspire the pants off you."



If you go ...

Wordfest features 85 writers at 65 events in Calgary and Banff from Oct. 14-19.

- **More info.** For full details and tickets, go to wordfest.com.

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Steve Carell talks tech and teenagers

Alexander. Actor's new family-friendly affair has him thinking about cellphone rules

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Steve Carell has been busy promoting both the family-friendly Disney flick Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day and Bennett Miller's gritty true-life drama Foxcatcher, which wowed at Cannes and Toronto and hits theatres next month. Luckily, Carell hasn't had any trouble keeping the two films straight.

All the kids in Alexander have iPhones, which struck me as odd, but then I don't have children. Is there a right age for that?
It's different for different people. As for my family, we have limits. I think you have to have limits and you have to put parameters on that sort of usage. You want your kids to be engaged with other human beings — that's always a nice thing. Our daughter got her cellphone when she was 12. So when she entered seventh grade, she got a cellphone. And I think that's fairly common. I think for a while it was 16 or even older, but I think all of her friends at this point have cellphones. They're not allowed to use them in class or anything; they're really there for emergencies. "I need to come home, pick me up" kind of stuff.

And I assume there's a lot of peer pressure once other kids have them.
Yeah, certainly. Technology's changed a lot. Since I was a kid, the world is upside down technologically. I think parents are just navigating uncharted territory at this point.

My mom got me a pager when I was in high school.
And now I know exactly when you grew up (laughs). Because the lifespan of pagers was not a long one.

Longer than MiniDiscs, at least.
Oh yeah. I'm sure they don't make MiniDiscs anymore. I've heard, though, that vinyl is making a comeback, that digital music has sort of peaked and that vinyl is making a huge surge right now. I always loved album artwork. That to me is sort of a lost art; what album covers look like and just the feel of it.

You've also been promoting Foxcatcher, out later this fall, which is a very grown-up, Oscar-friendly drama. How do questions for the two films differ?
Well, I mean, the movies are just so tonally different, and one is based on a true story so there is, I think, much more responsibility involved.

Alexander isn't a true story?
It could be! I'm not saying it's not a true story. A familiar story, to be sure. Let's say that. Certainly the questions I think we're going to be asked are different. The whole approach to it is different. It's light, fun family entertainment, and it's a comedy.

metro AR This is one family that embraces terrible, horrible, very bad days. Scan this photo with your Metro News app to see how they relieve their stress. CONTRIBUTED

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Rumer Willis and mom Demi Moore. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Demi lectures daughter on pitfalls of cosmetic surgery

Demi Moore is reportedly reading the riot act to daughter Rumer after the 26-year-old posted an Instagram photo with so prominent a pout that some suspected she'd dabbled in the world of plastic surgery.

Despite speculation over the years that Moore herself has gone under the knife, she "got a few of her daughter's friends together and lectured them about the pitfalls of cosmetic surgery," a source tells the National Enquirer. "Demi thinks all her daughters are naturally beautiful. She worries that Rumer and her sisters feel pressure to chase an unrealistic Hollywood physical ideal."

Morrissey

'I'll rest when I'm dead' Morrissey tells worried fans

British singer Morrissey has revealed he is undergoing treatment for cancer, though he did not specify what type.

"They have scraped cancerous tissues from me four times already, but who cares," the 55-year-old former Smiths frontman tells Spanish newspaper El Mundo. "If I die, then I die. And if not, then I don't. Right now, I feel good. I am aware that in recent photos I look unwell, but that is what illness does. I'm not going to worry about that, I'll rest when I'm dead."

Morrissey has been forced to cancel several concert appearances since the beginning of last year due to various health issues.

The Word

Can you spare a fiver to help London block Nickelback?

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Who says the Internet can't be used as a force for good?

A British man has launched an online crowdfunding campaign with the express purpose of keeping Nickelback from performing in London.

Craig Mandell has set a goal of $1,000, with all contributed funds going to charity, to show the band's management just how much Londoners don't want them around.

For each $1 donation, he will send Nickelback's management an email "kindly requesting that they do not play in London, England, for the foreseeable future."

A $5 donation gets a "slightly more forceful email," and $10 earns an email "full of explicit phrases and lots of capital letters and maybe even a rude emoticon or two."

But for donors really serious about getting their point across, nothing beats the $50 donation level:

"Your donation will result in an email to Nickelback with an attached mp3 of Nickelback's music," Mandell writes.

"This way, the band will hear their own music and likely retire immediately, thereby ensuring the success of our campaign."

Do your part, folks.

Londoners will thank you.

Martha Stewart

Gwyneth Paltrow

Shocked Paltrow 'psyched' that Stewart sees Goop as real competition

This Gwyneth Paltrow-Martha Stewart feud has reached new levels of cattiness, thanks to a recent speech by Paltrow herself.

Apparently the Country Strong star heard Stewart's remarks that Paltrow "just needs to be quiet" and "if she were confident in her acting, she wouldn't be trying to be Martha Stewart."

Paltrow's response? "No one has ever said anything bad about me before, so I'm shocked and devastated. I'll try to recover," she joked while speaking at Fortune magazine's Most Powerful Women Summit earlier this week. "If I'm really honest, I'm so psyched that she sees us as competition."

I can only hope they continue to snipe at each other at increasingly absurd high-brow functions. Keep it classy, ladies.

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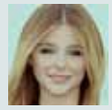
@rihanna
Burning candles inside of the studio, rappin n prayin...



@ChloeGMoretz
LA for 24 hours? Obviously fitting in a @soulcycle class

@joeldavidmoore
So what's the plan here? We all just gonna put a bunch of those Instagram baby pics in an album to show kids later in life?

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THE DOUBLE DOUBLE EVENT

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Clothes: the book on Betty

Written in retail.
Famed Bergdorf personal shopper Betty Halbreich talks closets, mirrors and memories

Betty Halbreich's lays out her life in a new book, I'll Drink to That: A Life in Style with a Twist, co-written by Rebecca Paley and released in September by Penguin Press. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clothes and how to wear them have been a constant in Betty Halbreich's life for most of her 86 years.

Good thing she landed a job at Bergdorf Goodman as a personal shopper nearly four decades ago.

The opportunity couldn't have been better timed. She was fresh out of a mental hospital after a breakdown following a split with her husband. She had found herself alone in his city — it wasn't hers — for the first time and needed a reason to get out of bed.

Fashion and style loomed large in her proper upbringing as a lonely only child in Chicago.

At the famed department store, it was the thing that saved her life. But with age, she's made a few changes, particularly when it comes to her relationship with clothes.

"I've loved clothes all of my life. I don't love them personally anymore. It's more of a job. Today it's like whatever's in the closet," the blunt-spoken Halbreich said by phone in a recent interview.

Dressing "correctly" has always come easily for Halbreich, especially under the watchful eye of her fastidious mother, so sharing that love by dressing others is about the only job she could have imagined.

Halbreich, with two grown children and three grandchildren, is still on the job, pulling looks for clients from the racks at Bergdorf and preparing to publish a book on her life spent finding the perfect fashions.

Closets have always been a source of comfort to you.

They've played a huge role in your life.
They're my playhouse, like my dollhouse when I was growing up. I can get up in the middle of the night and start doing them. I live in eight rooms. I have 12 closets. I just keep rearranging all the retro clothes backward and forward. Closets and keeping them neat are like a hobby. It's really going back to my childhood. I've had enough psychiatry to tell you.

You have an odd relationship with mirrors. You're surrounded by them all day long at the store.
I do have an odd relationship. My mirror is so terrible at home that when I see myself in a better mirror when I come to work I say, 'My God, Betty. Turn up the lights. Don't walk out in the morning looking like a shadow.'

But clients, I teach how to look in the mirror. It's so interesting. It's a reversal. It's psychological. I've always had a fight with mirrors. I've never liked a mirror image. I've never really liked who I was, you know. I like who I am today because I'm more comfortable.

How do you train somebody to like their image in the mirror?
My mirrors are three-way and most women do not like that three-way mirror thrown at them, where you see your rear end, and you see your side view. But if they're really enamoured of some beautiful piece of clothing it works.

I know what looks good on them the minute they put it on. Look, 37 years of this stupid job, if I don't know that it doesn't look good on them I should really leave.

So you don't live, eat and breathe fashion and shopping?
When I leave the store, I try to live another life. I don't talk about clothes.

I haven't been in Saks since they put the escalator in (that would be 1979). Maybe I'll have to go to Bloomingdale's to buy a pillowcase, but I don't tread in other stores. I find it extremely boring. It's like eating too much candy.

I don't want to bring it home. I'm really not interested.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Let's get real

"Look, 37 years of this stupid job, if I don't know that it doesn't look good on them, I should really leave."
Betty Halbreich,
Image consultant and personal stylist

Kindred collaboration

Betty Halbreich on her friendship with Girls star Lena Dunham, who's developing a TV series inspired by Halbreich and her book.

- "We're going to have such a good time together if we ever get on with this, whatever we're doing. I feel like she's my other child. We're soulmates in a strange way. We've suffered through some of the same things. We think a lot alike. She's sweeter than I am."

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Chrissy

Age: 27

Occupation: Music venue promoter

What she's wearing:
American Apparel cheetah top, vintage pants and shoes from Timeless Apparel, and vintage sunglasses from Public Butter.

Her inspiration:
"David Bowie in the '70s."

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Trends Report

We've been experiencing a blast from the past as retro fashion trends are making a comeback. Go online to Trends Report to check out some of the these trends, and let me know which you love — and which you hate.

- **Online.** metronews.ca/trends-report
- **Follow** Irene on Twitter @MetroIreneK and Instagram @kuanirene

Photo: **Getty Images**

EIT3

PLUS HOMES

Create a private place for guests in a small space

Holiday visitors. Expecting house guests and wondering how to turn an awkward area into an inviting sleeping space? Try these tips

I purchased a condo that has a den, which is a three-sided room that opens to my foyer and has no closet or window. I'd like to create sleeping space for guests and need some help.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Not only does this space occasionally need to function as a private sleeping space, but it should also be an attractive area when visitors enter the condo. I suggest creating a lounge room that offers up everyday storage and sleeping space when needed.

Start by adding a daybed, one that can be used for both lounging and sleeping. Decorative pillows that line the back of the daybed will give it a sofa effect. Once you've carved out space for the bed, make some sort of storage, like a wall of cabinetry or bookcases, a priority. Use them for display or books and add bins or baskets to hide away everyday essentials.

Add a versatile ottoman/bench to round out the furnishings to create some additional seating. A reading lamp and large mirror will help make the area feel like an intentional lounge/reading room. A ceiling-mounted drapery rod can contain a drapery panel off to one side; this can be closed when guests are sleeping and kept tied back when not in use.

As for a decor scheme, take your cue from your foyer area. If you have a stylish mirror, a painting or an area rug in your entrance, then allow that style and those colours into the den. This will create a large, impressive-looking entrance when visitors arrive, yet offer up a private sleeping area when draped off.

A lounger by day and a queen bed by night — the top cushion flips down to create a bed for two. Lubi Turquoise Sleeper Daybed, $999, CB2.com.

Open and airy shelving adds useful style to a small space without making it feel boxy. Bibloteca Bookcase, $699, UrbanBarn.com.

Put your feet up and it's an ottoman, add a tray and it's a coffee table or swing it into play as extra seating. Amanda Bench, $199, Structube.com.

Making room for this dish is as easy as pie

Alternative Thanksgiving Week.
Pumpkin pie will just have to share the spotlight with this Hearty Beef Pot Pie

Pastry Crust

1. Blend flour and salt well in a large bowl. Cut the shortening into pea-size pieces and work into flour mixture until crumbs form. In a separate bowl, mix together cold water and vinegar. Gradually add the water mixture to the flour mixture until combined. Shape the dough into a ball, cover in plastic wrap, and chill for at least 30 minutes.

2. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to a uniform thickness. Place in a pie plate and trim the edges.

3. Bake at 400 F for 8 to 12 minutes, or until golden brown. Let cool. (Makes two 9-inch pie crusts).

To Prepare

1. Preheat the oven to 450 F. Place meat in a bowl and soak in 1 cup of milk for 5 minutes, then drain meat and dredge in 1 cup flour. Shake off excess. Place meat in a skillet and brown in butter and oil on all sides over medium high heat. Add onion before meat is completely browned. Turn down heat to low. Add 1 cup of broth and garlic, salt, and pepper and let simmer for 20 minutes.

2. In a bowl, whisk 1/3 cup of flour into 1 cup broth. Add to pan. Add the potatoes, peas and carrots, and celery to the pan and continue cooking until the beef is tender and the mixture is thick and bubbly.

3. Pour the mixture into an unbaked pie crust. Top with crust. Score the top crust to vent. Bake at 450 F for 35 minutes, or until the crust is golden brown.

Ingredients

Pastry Crust
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup + 2 tbsp butter-flavoured vegetable shortening, chilled
- 5 tbsp ice cold water
- 1 tbsp vinegar

Beef Pot Pie
- Two 9-inch unbaked pastry pie crusts
- 1 lb beef stew mix, cut in 1-inch cubes
- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/3 cup flour, divided
- 6 tbsp butter
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cups beef broth, divided
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cups potatoes, peeled, cubed, and cooked
- 1 cup frozen peas and carrots
- 1 stalk celery, diced

For an extra touch, slather this pie in a rich gravy. KATIE JACOBS

Cookbook of the Week

The wonderful world of pie

Me, Myself, and Pie by Sherry Gore not only features 100 recipes that use simple, wholesome ingredients — it also shares stories of Amish life and culture. Gore offers readers tried-and-true techniques that are sure to turn out picture-perfect pies, whether you're a novice or filled-pastry connoisseur. Recipes include both sweet and savoury fillings. Among recipes are Peach Pie, Cream Cheese Pecan Pie, Sweet Potato Pie, Farmhouse Chicken Pot Pie; Ham and Cheese Hand Pies, and more. METRO

ME, MYSELF AND PIE: AMISH RECIPES BY SHERRY GORE (HARPER COLLINS CHRISTIAN PUBLISHING/ ZONDERVAN, 2014)

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Costumes for the entire family

When Vancouverite Malee Perera and her son get ready for Halloween, Value Village is a prime destination.

They aren't the only second-hand costume buyers. Thirty-one per cent of parents combine new and second-hand items to get their child a standout costume, according to Value Village's annual Halloween survey.

About 87 per cent of parents say their children dress up for Halloween, and 68 per cent of parents let their kids make the costume decisions.

"My son is really into music, so he's been Gene Simmons from Kiss for several years in a row," Perera says. "But every year the costume gets an upgrade."

Perera has a few tips for getting your costume perfect.

LOOK FOR INSPIRATION ONLINE

If you are stumped on what to wear this Halloween, Google it. Pinterest is another great resource for Halloween costumes, Perera says. The latest kids' movies continue to lead the costume inspiration. According to the survey, Canadians think Disney's Frozen will beat Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and X-Men: Days of the Future Past for the top movie costume inspiration.

Trick-or-treaters can also find tons of inspiration at valuevillage.com.

PICK UP SOME SPRAY PAINT

Want to change the colour of a second-hand item? Spray paint can take care of that. "Last year my son wanted to add some silver boots to his costume, so we found some second-hand boots that were the right shape but the wrong colour," Perera says. "Then we spray painted them black and glued on some studs. They worked great."

SHOP SECOND-HAND FOR FABRICS

Buy your fabrics second-hand. "One year my son dressed as a skeleton, so he wore this black hoodie and sweatpants that he had almost grown out of, then we found a white sheet at Value Village, cut out bone shapes from it, and stitched them to his black clothes," Perera says. "It worked perfectly and it cost literally $1.99."

Value Village is full of good ideas. For more inspiration, find great costume ideas and DIY Halloween crafts at valuevillage.com.

– Stephanie Orford

DECK YOUR HOME IN HALLOWEEN DECOR

It's time to find those pumpkin carving tools. The spookiest time of year is here again and four in 10 Canadians plan to decorate their house for the occasion, according to a 2014 survey by Value Village.

Decorate your home inexpensively with decorations and DIY supplies from the thrift store. Value Village specializes in all things Halloween.

CREEPY CRAWLERS WREATH

Send shivers down spines with a Halloween-themed wreath on your door. Take a regular twig wreath (thrifted from Value Village, or new) and attach a hoard of plastic spiders or snakes using floral wire to create the creepiest of welcomes for your trick-or-treaters. Paint your creepy crawlers black with acrylic paint for a monochromatic effect.

TERRIFYING TABLE SETTINGS

Drip red wax over top of white candles to create macabre mood lighting. Plastic vampire teeth make great napkin holders. A red cloth works perfectly to create a table runner, tablecloth or placemats. Use fabric scissors to cut the edges into blood-drip shapes to create an effect the vampires among us will love.

Visit Value Village to make a do-it-yourself terrifying table setting. CONTRIBUTED

GOLDEN PUMPKINS

Wow your guests with golden gourds. Give an assortment of mini-pumpkins the Midas touch. Use glue and dip them in gold confetti or sparkles, or simply spray paint some or all of the pumpkin gold to create decorations worthy of Cinderella.

PUMPKIN ICE BUCKET

Looking for decorations that are cool and practical? Slice a large pumpkin in half horizontally and hollow out to create a bowl. Fill with ice and a little water and insert your cans or bottles of choice. Chilling!

MOOD LIGHTING

Find a wealth of second-hand glass containers at Value Village to create mood lighting for your Halloween celebration. Wrap the exterior with cheesecloth, apply stick-on googly eyes, insert glow stick or battery-operated light and voila! You have yourself a mummy light.

Visit @saversvvillage on Pinterest for many more great ideas for decorating your home this Halloween.

– Stephanie Orford

EVERY DONATION, PURCHASE HELPS

Sometimes Halloween costumes can be reused for years, but if you are tired of being the predictable guy at the party, don't throw your costume in the trash — donate at Value Village.

One person's trash is another's treasure, especially when it comes to Halloween costumes.

Every time you donate your child's outgrown costume at Value Village, not only will it bring another child just as much fun, but it will also go toward providing sustainable funding for vital community programs and services.

Value Village partners with local not-for-profit organizations to make this happen with all items that are on the floor, so that every donation and every purchase helps.

Donating your used costumes also helps keep them out of landfills. Value Village is also one of the largest recyclers of used clothing in the world, helping thrifty shoppers repurpose more than 294 million kilograms (650 million pounds) of quality goods every year.

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In Toronto

Habs edge Leafs in thriller of a game

The Montreal Canadiens got a pinball goal to beat the Toronto Maple Leafs in the season opener.

Tomas Plekanec banked a shot off the foot of rookie Leafs defenceman Stuart Percy with 43 seconds left to give the Canadiens a 4-3 victory Wednesday night in Toronto.

Plekanec's second goal of the game came not long after Morgan Rielly tied it for Toronto in a back-and-forth game that will be another chapter in the long-standing rivalry between these teams.

P.K. Subban and Max Pacioretty also scored for the Habs. Goaltender Carey Price finished with 24 saves.

Rielly, Nazem Kadri and Tyler Bozak had the Leafs' goals. Jonathan Bernier stopped 28 of the 32 shots he faced.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jackets

Dubinsky to miss six weeks of action

The Columbus Blue Jackets will be without centre Brandon Dubinsky for the next six weeks after he underwent abdominal surgery.

Coach Todd Richards said at Wednesday's practice that Dubinsky had surgery earlier in the day.

Dubinsky had 16 goals and 34 assists a year ago as one of the leaders on a young Blue Jackets team that made the post-season for only the second time in the franchise's 13 years. He was injured during a Monday practice.

Richards said that rookies Marko Dano, Michael Chaput and Alexander Wennberg, among others, will get more playing time in Dubinsky's absence.

Columbus opens the season at Buffalo on Thursday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks crash the Flames' opener

Bad guests. Flames defence lets Vancouver lead in shots, goals

Radim Vrbata scored the eventual winner for the Vancouver Canucks in a 4-2 win over the Calgary Flames on Wednesday.

Vrbata's goal at 11:07 of the second period was initially waived off as a high-stick, but he was given the goal after review.

Alex Burrows and Zack Kassian also scored and captain Henrik Sedin added an empty-netter for the Canucks, who extended their winning streak against Calgary to eight in a row.

Paul Byron and Jiri Hudler replied for the Flames.

The season-opener for both Calgary and Vancouver at Scotiabank Saddledome featured two teams attempting to climb out of the bottom of the league standings. The Canucks finished 25th and the Flames 27th among the 30 teams last season.

Their starting goaltenders signed as free agents on July 1 and made their debuts for their respective teams. Ryan Miller stopped 23 of 25 shots for the win, while Jonas Hiller turned away 30 of 33 in his first game in a Flames jersey.

The Vancouver Canucks celebrate a goal scored by Alex Burrows as a dejected Deryk Engelland of the Flames skates away at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Wednesday. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

On Wednesday night

4	2
Canucks	Flames

Willie Desjardins won his first regular-season game as Vancouver's head coach. He replaced John Tortorella who was sacked after just one season with the Canucks.

Hudler pulled the host Flames within a goal at 13:19 of the second period when he blasted a drop pass from linemate Sean Monahan past Miller.

Vrbata batted the puck out of the air past Hiller to pad the visitors' lead to 3-1 at 11:07. The Canucks signed the Czech forward to a two-year contract in the off-season to play the right wing on a line with Henrik and Daniel Sedin. Vrbata had three goals in the pre-season.

The Flames embark on a six-game road trip starting Thursday in Edmonton. The Canucks are at home Saturday to the Oilers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Flame. Injury spoils Raymond's pre-season

Mason Raymond will have to adjust on the fly to his new team.

Limited to a pair of pre-season games with the Calgary Flames because of a lower-body injury, Raymond says the first few games of the NHL season will be a lesson in adaptation.

"Would I have liked a few more pre-season games? Sure," Raymond said. "There's new things to learn, there's new systems, new everything kind of walk of life. I try to pick that up as much as I can, but in saying that I think actually being on the ice and in those situations is the best way, quickest way to learn those.

Mason Raymond
THE CANADIAN PRESSS

"Part of being a professional is being able to adapt. I've been a pro in this long enough. You have to learn, you have to adapt, that's just part of the way it is."

The Flames signed Raymond to a three-year, $9.5-million deal when unrestricted free agency opened July 1. Mike Cammalleri, Calgary's leading scorer last season, departed for the New Jersey Devils the same day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canadian MacDonald scores his title chance

UFC. B.C. welterweight to fight winner of Hendricks-Lawler bout for the belt

Rory MacDonald attacks a downed Tarec Saffiedine during their welterweight bout at UFC Fight Night 4 in Halifax on Saturday night.
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Rory (Ares) MacDonald is getting his UFC title shot. And it will happen in Canada.

UFC president Dana White has confirmed that the 25-year-old welterweight will fight the winner of the UFC 181 main event between 170-pound champion Johny (Bigg Rigg) Hendricks and No. 1 contender (Ruthless) Robbie Lawler.

Hendricks and Lawler meet Dec. 6 in a Las Vegas rematch of their UFC 171 bout in March that decided the successor to Georges St-Pierre.

MacDonald, ranked No. 2 among welterweight contenders, has won three straight and eight of his last nine in the UFC.

"It's pretty impossible to deny Rory that, whoever comes out of that Hendricks-Lawler fight, he's the next guy in line," White told The Canadian Press on Wednesday.

MacDonald, a native of Kelowna, B.C., who fights out of Montreal, is bidding to join St-Pierre and Carlos (Ronin) Newton as the only Canadians to hold a UFC championship.

Featherweight Mark (The Machine) Hominick of Thamesford, Ont., and Montreal middleweight Patrick (The Predator) Cote lost title fights in the UFC. Alexis Davis failed in a bid for the women's bantamweight crown.

MacDonald (18-2) has already beaten No. 3 Tyron Woodley, No. 7 Demian Maia, No. 8 Jake Ellenberger and No. 9 Tarec Saffiedine.

"I have a lot of respect for Saffiedine," White said. "That's guy's tough to deal with. Rory just absolutely made him look like he didn't belong there. He actually treated him like No. 9."

White said the MacDonald title bout would "absolutely, positively, without a doubt, be in Canada. He's next in line and that fight will be in Canada."

White did not say when MacDonald would get his title shot, but the UFC has a March date reserved in Montreal.

MacDonald has not faced Hendricks. He lost a split decision to Lawler when they met at UFC 167 in November 2013.

After beating Saffiedine, the Canadian argued he was the logical contender.

"I really don't see anyone else," he said.

It's hard to argue with him. No. 4 Carlos Condit, while he holds a 2010 win over MacDonald, has fought for the title and lost and is currently recovering from a knee injury. No. 5 Matt Brown lost to Lawler in June and No. 6 Hector Lombard is set to face Josh Burkman at UFC 182 in January. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The prophecy

"One day, very soon the belt will be mine."

Rory MacDonald, following a unanimous decision victory over Tyron Woodley at UFC 174 in June, predicted he would become the UFC's welterweight champion

Memorial Cup

Red Deer to host 2016 tournament

The Western Hockey League's Red Deer Rebels have been selected to host the 2016 MasterCard Memorial Cup.

The Rebels will host junior hockey's biggest tournament for the first time in team history after beating out the Vancouver Giants by a majority vote of the WHL board of governors in Calgary on Wednesday.

The Memorial Cup will return to Alberta for the first time since 1974, when Calgary hosted the tournament.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gaga over papa-Popovich

Lady Gaga attends the NBA Global Games basketball friendly match between German champions Alba Berlin and NBA champions San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday at Berlin's O2 World Arena. Scan the image for results from the game ... you might be surprised. TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

metro AR

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Face up to emotional problems. There is a time and a place for everything, and this is the time and the place to make your feelings known. Be honest and tell others to be honest too.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
A business venture may seem straightforward but as Mercury is in one of its retrograde phases there may be hidden pitfalls. Don't commit unless you have a get-out clause.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Your approach to a certain situation may be ridiculed by those who think you are doomed to failure but they won't be laughing when they see you make a success of it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will learn as much from your mistakes today as you do from your successes, so be of good cheer and expect an upturn in your fortunes soon.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Others may be willing to listen to your opinions today but will they act on what you suggest? Don't worry about that. Just ensure you live up to your ideals.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may have misgivings about a deal but you'd be wise to ignore them. What happens over the next few days should give you a sense of confidence.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The changes you are going through may be what you need but that won't stop you from worrying. The planets urge you to keep faith with what you have decided and eventually your luck will return.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Because mind planet Mercury is moving retrograde it will take a concentrated mental effort not to give in to feelings of doom. It is an effort worth making.

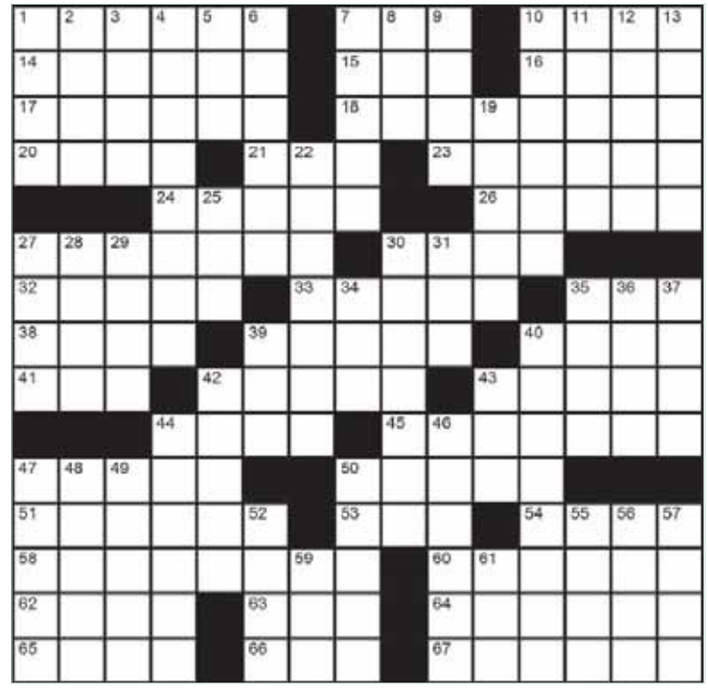
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today's cosmic picture is misleading to say the least, so don't make decisions on what you think loved ones have been saying. Chances are you have misinterpreted their meaning.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Communication won't be easy over the next 24 hours, and when you get a straight answer from someone you may not be able to trust it. Keep what you want to say for another day.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Trust your instincts if they lead you in a certain direction today but don't expect others to follow without question.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your imagination could easily run away with you today, especially if you are having second thoughts about a project. Don't get carried away.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



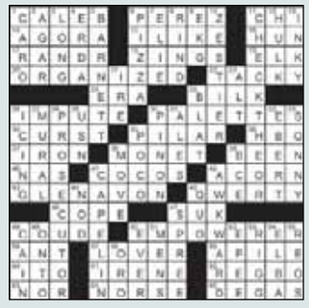
Across

1. Kardashians guy Scott
7. Queen from folklore
10. Try out
14. Actress, Maria Conchita __
15. Genius
16. "My Way" bit: "..._ ___ it up and spit it out."
17. Praying insect
18. Barenaked Ladies bassist Jim
20. Business: 'Big Board', briefly
21. Gardening implement
23. __ Bridge (1500s-built oldest crosser of Venice's Grand Canal)
24. Whirls
26. Smile scornfully
27. Mr. Ferguson, Canadian jazz trumpeter
30. Canadian hockey star Mr. Weber
32. The Tempest spirit
33. Supermodel Kate
35. Music's Brian
38. Seven: French
39. Tennis great Chris
40. Handle
41. Owns
42. Persona non __
43. Still _ __ (Maya Angelou poem)
44. True: French
45. __ Afshin-Jam (Activist wife of Justice Minister Peter MacKay who was Miss World Canada in 2003)
47. Ms. MacDowell
50. Askew, to a Scot
51. Trumpet-like instrument
53. "Waking __ Devine" (1998)
54. Bausch + __ (Contacts care brand)
58. Harbour hazard: 2 wds.
60. Mr. Estevez
62. Mr. Shankar
63. Ms. Larter
64. McDonald's character
65. Actor, Roscoe __ (b.1895 - d.1962)
66. Celebrity chef Sandra
67. Dotted-line endorser

Down

1. Exasperated expletive!
2. William Faulkner's As _ __ Dying
3. Some of "The Brady Bunch"
4. Cyberspace
5. "_ _ _: Crime Scene Investigation"
6. __ salt (Seasoning)
7. Ceremonial staffs
8. Horiz.
9. "Cheers" order
10. Fantasy novel by Weyburn, Saskatchewan born author Guy Gavriel Kay
11. Bald __
12. Condition
13. Placido Domingo's voice
19. Iron: German
22. Leakey Family's famous excavation site, __ Gorge
25. 'Arbor' suffix (Relating to trees)
27. Crush
28. "Diamonds __ _ Girl's Best Friend"
29. Litter barks
30. "__ Empire", new CBC Western
31. Popular
34. Hamster or parrot
35. Ireland, in verse
36. Inconclusive
37. Frank
39. Baseball pitcher's stat.
40. Arctic __ (Northwest Territories' official fish)
42. Hellenic language
43. 'Capital' suffix
44. Da __ (Mona Lisa and Annunciation)
46. Some trees
47. Canadian performers' union
48. Tuque-less, say: 2 wds.
49. The Cars hit
50. Brad Pitt's wife, to pals
52. Cookware brand
55. The Good Earth heroine
56. Distance unit
57. Foretell
59. Bravo!
61. Me: French

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

9		1				3		8
	8		2		3		9	
2			9		8			6
		5	1		9	2		
		2	3		6	4		
7			6		1			4
	5		4		7		8	
3		4				1		7

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	4	8	3	5	2	1
1	3	8	6	2	5	7	4	9
4	5	2	9	1	7	8	3	6
7	4	6	2	5	8	9	1	3
9	1	5	3	4	6	2	7	8
2	8	3	7	9	1	4	6	5
8	9	7	1	3	2	6	5	4
3	6	4	5	7	9	1	8	2
5	2	1	8	6	4	3	9	7

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